

An OFDM Communication ChannelField of the Invention

This invention relates to OFDM communication channels, and more particularly to improvements in channel performance using signal processing of pilot signals in the channel.

Background of the Invention

Advanced communications today may use the Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex (OFDM) modulation for efficient transmission of digital signals. These signals may include video, voice and/or data. OFDM is a commonly used implementation of Multi-Carrier Modulation (MCM).

The Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex (OFDM) is a modern advanced modulation method, that achieves better use of the frequency spectrum.

OFDM has been used in recent years in many applications where robustness against severe multipath and interference conditions is required, or a high system capacity, flexibility in providing variable bit rate services, scalability and a capability to perform well in Single Frequency Networks (SNF) . OFDM forms the basis for various communication standards, including for example the Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting, wireless LANs and Wireless Local Loops.

OFDM requires an advanced signal processing.

Thus, a block of information is divided among N frequency channels, so that a portion of the information is transmitted in each of the abovementioned channels or frequencies. Since each channel is orthogonal to the others, a better utilization of the frequency spectrum is achieved.

003210 " 2946460

An IFFT (Inverse Fourier Transform) is performed on the modulated carriers, to form the signal in the time domain that corresponds to the above modulated carriers. The signal is transmitted as a frame that contains the block of information to be transmitted.

When there is a time synchronization error, the signals after FFT in the various subchannels are rotated with respect to each other. This effect creates interference within the subchannel.

Another problem is a frequency error between the transmitted signal and the receiver. A frequency error generates a frequency shift that may change the location of symbols and/or may generate interference between symbols.

Because of channel imperfection, a time or phase delay may be generated between the various parts of the spectrum of the transmitted signal. This distortion of the frequency spectrum of the transmitted signal may interfere with the signal reconstruction in the receiver.

The problem is further aggravated by multipath. Multipath may cause several replicas of a signal to be received, each possibly having a different time delay, amplitude and polarity. These signals may result in interference between adjacent transmitted frames.

Thus, Seki et al., US Patent 5,771,224 , discloses an orthogonal frequency division multiplexing transmission system and transmitter and receiver therefor. It transmits an OFDM transmission frame, with null symbols and reference symbols being placed in the beginning portion of the frame and QPSK symbols are placed in an information symbol data region in the frame, with equal spacing in time and frequency.

Baum et al., US Patent 5,802,044 , discloses a multicarrier reverse link timing synchronization system. A center station transmits a forward link signal, receives a reverse link signal, and determines a timing offset for signals received on a reverse link timing synchronization channel. A reverse link symbol timing synchronization can be used in a system having a plurality of transmitting overlap bandwidth subscriber units on an OFDM-like spectrally overlapping reverse channel. The modulation method may comprise M-ary Quadrature Phase Shift Keying(M-PSK), M-ary Quadrature Amplitude Modulation (QAM) or other digital modulation method.

Gudmundson et al., US Patent 5,790,516 , discloses a method and system for pulse shaping for data transmission in an orthogonal frequency division multiplexed (OFDM) system.

Yamauchi, et al., U.S. Patent 5,761,190, discloses an OFDM broadcast wave receiver. An OFDM (Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplex) broadcast wave receiver for receiving an OFDM broadcast wave.

It automatically discriminates whether the received signal is of a wide band or a narrow band by determining if a carrier signal having a predetermined frequency is present among signals of a plurality of frequencies, acquired by OFDM demodulation of the reception signal by demodulation means.

It also controls the demodulating operation of the demodulation means in accordance with the discrimination result to thereby acquire a demodulated signal.

[illegible]

Synchronization is achieved by computing metrics which utilize the unique properties of these two OFDM training symbols. Timing synchronization is determined by computing a timing metric which recognizes the half-symbol symmetry of the first OFDM training symbol. Carrier frequency offset estimation is performed in using the timing metric as well as a carrier frequency offset metric which peaks at the correct value of carrier frequency offset. Sampling rate offset estimation is performed by evaluating the slope of the locus of points of phase rotation due to sampling rate offset as a function of sub-carrier frequency number.

The encoding/transmission of information in an OFDM system is enhanced by using complementary codes. The complementary codes, more particularly, are converted into phase vectors and the resulting phase vectors are then used to modulate respective carrier signals. The modulated result is then transmitted to a receiver which decodes the received signals to recover the encoded information.

A method of demultiplexing OFDM signals and a receiver for such signals.

The method is concerned with synchronization in an OFDM receiver. A signal is read into a synchronization unit, in the time domain, i.e., before Fourier transforming the signal by means of an FFT processor. In the synchronization unit, a frame clock is derived for triggering the start of the FFT process and for controlling the rate at which data is supplied to the FFT processor. For OFDM reception, it is vital that the FFT process commences at the right point in time. Once the frame clock has been recovered, a frequency error can be estimated by the synchronization unit. The frequency error is used to control an oscillator which generates a complex rotating vector which is, in turn, multiplied with the signal to compensate for frequency errors. The method can be used both with OFDM systems in which symbols are separated by guard spaces, and with OFDM systems in which symbols are pulse shaped.

Kim, U.S. Patent 5,963,592, discloses an adaptive channel equalizer for use in digital communication system utilizing OFDM method. An adaptive channel equalizer for use in OFDM receiver is disclosed. The adaptive channel equalizer comprises a first complex multiplier for outputting a first in-phase complex multiplication signal and a first quadrature phase complex multiplication signal; a reference signal generator for generating a reference signal; an error calculator for outputting an in-phase error signal and a quadrature phase error signal; a delay unit for outputting an in-phase delay signal and a quadrature phase delay signal; a gain controller for outputting an in-phase gain control signal and a quadrature phase gain control signal; a second complex multiplier for outputting a second in-phase complex multiplication signal and a second quadrature phase complex multiplication signal; an adder for outputting updated in-phase and quadrature phase coefficients; an address generator for generating a write address signal and a read address signal; a storage unit for storing the updated in-phase and quadrature phase coefficients, and outputting the updated coefficients; an initial coefficients generator for generating an initial coefficients; a selecting signal generator for generating a selecting signal; and a multiplexing unit for selecting one of the initial coefficients and the updated coefficients according to the selecting signal.

008210-23926460

At each remote location, data to be transmitted is coded by translating each group of one or more bits of the data into a transform coefficient associated with a frequency in a particular subset of orthonormal baseband frequencies allocated to each remote location. The particular subset of orthonormal baseband frequencies allocated to each location is chosen from a set of orthonormal baseband frequencies. At each remote location, an electronic processor performs an inverse orthogonal transform (e.g., an inverse Fourier Transform) on the transform coefficients to obtain a block of time domain data. The time domain data is then modulated on a carrier for transmission to the central location.

Preferably, the time intervals for data transmission at the different remote locations are aligned with each other. In one embodiment of the invention, all of the baseband frequencies are allocated to a single particular remote location for one time slot. At the remote location, data is received from a plurality of remote locations. The data is demodulated to obtain baseband time domain data. The orthogonal transform is performed on this data to obtain transform coefficients. Each transform coefficient is associated with a baseband frequency. The central location keeps track of which baseband frequencies are allocated to which remote location for subsequent translation of each transform coefficient.

Isaksson, U.S. Patent 5,726,973, discloses a method and arrangement for synchronization in OFDM modulation. A method and an arrangement for synchronization in OFDM modulation. Frequency errors of an IF clock and a sampling clock are controlled by estimating the deviation of the sampling clock and, respectively, the IF clock for two subcarriers with different frequencies.

According to the invention, the frequencies are chosen symmetrically around zero and the absolute phase errors are detected for both subcarriers. Timing errors and phase errors are formed from the absolute phase errors in order to generate two control signals. The first control signal is formed from the deviation of the sampling clock and the timing error for controlling the sampling clock while the second control signal is formed from the deviation of the IF clock and the phase error for controlling the IF clock.

003210-2996460

Wright, U.S. Patent 5,838,734, discloses means for compensation for local oscillator errors in an OFDM receiver. A receiver for orthogonal frequency division multiplexed signals includes means for calculating the (discrete) Fourier Transform of the received signal, and means for calculating the phase error due to local oscillator errors.

McGibney, U.S. Patent 5,889,759, discloses an OFDM timing and frequency recovery system. A synchronizing apparatus for a differential OFDM receiver that simultaneously adjust the radio frequency and sample clock frequency using a voltage controlled crystal oscillator to generate a common reference frequency. Timing errors are found by constellation rotation. Subcarrier signals are weighted by using complex multiplication to find the phase differentials and then the timing errors. The reference oscillator is adjusted using the timing errors. Slow frequency drift may be compensated using an integral of the timing error. Frequency offset is found using the time required for the timing offset to drift from one value to another.

Background material on advanced modulation techniques and related communication topics may be found in the following articles:

Scott L. Miller and Robert j. O'Dea, "Peak Power and Bandwidth Efficient Linear Modulation", IEEE transactions on communications, Vol. 46, No. 12, pp. 1639-1648, December 1998.

Kazuki Maeda and Kuniaki Utsumi, "Bit-Error of M-QAM Signal and its Analysis Model for Composite Distortions in AM/QAM Hybrid Transmission", IEEE transactions on communications, Vol. 47, No. 8, pp. 1173-1180, August 1999.

Kazuki Maeda and Kuniaki Utsumi, "Performance of Reduced-Bandwidth 16QAM with Decision-Feedback Equalization", IEEE transactions on communications, Vol. COM-35, No. 7, pp. 1173-1180, July 1987.

Background material on phase noise in advanced communication systems may be found in the following references:

003210-296660

Yossi Segal and Zion Hadad, "OFDMA access method for HIPERACCESS",
HARNC1.doc, December 1999.

Naftali Chayat, "Updated Submission Template for TGa - Revision 2",
IEEE 802.11- 98/156r2, March 1998.

Alcatel, Bosch, Ericsson, Lucent, Nokia, Siemens AG and Siemens ICN,
 "Proposal for the Adoption of the TDMA Access Scheme in HIPERACCESS",
 HA16ERI1a.doc, December 1999.

Thierry Pollet, Mark Van Bladel and Marc Moeneclaey, "BER Sensitivity of OFDM Systems to Carrier Frequency Offset and Wiener Phase Noise", IEEE transactions on communications, Vol. 43, No. 2/3/4, pp. 191-193, February/March/April 1995.

Luciano Tomba, "On the Effect of Wiener Phase Noise in OFDM Systems",
IEEE transactions on communications, Vol. 46, No. 5, pp. 580-583, May 1998.

Naftali Chayat, "TGa Comparison Matrix per 98/156r2", IEEE 802.11-98/157r5, May 1998.

ETSI EP BRAN #16 Athens, Greece November 29 - December 3, 1999
HA16RNC1Annex.doc page 3 of 13 22-Nov-99

Summary of the Invention

The present disclosure relates to improvements in OFDM-based digital communications. The scope and spirit of the invention are better described with the inclusion of specific applications thereof.

A possible problem in the above modulation scheme may be an error in the time synchronization between several signals appearing at the receiver, or between transmitter and receiver.

When there is a time synchronization error, the signals after FFT in the various subchannels are rotated with respect to each other.

This effect creates interference within the subchannel.

One application of the invention relates to receiver synchronization using means for Automatic Synchronization Control (ASC).

The ASC means use an analysis of pilot signals in the transmitted signal to implement the ASC loop.

The analysis is performed continuously, in real time. The correction of detected errors is also performed continuously in real time.

The time synchronization error may be evaluated based on the rate of rotation of the pilot signals. A correction signal is generated accordingly, to adjust the timing in the receiver to the received signal. This is implemented in an ASC loop, to achieve optimal timing for sampling in the A/D converter.

Another problem is a frequency error between the transmitted signal and the receiver.

A frequency error generates a frequency shift that may change the location of symbols and/or may generate interference between symbols. The information may be divided between separate bins, or may be assigned to other than the desired bins. Some information may be lost because of the frequency shift. The actual effect in each case (or at any instant in time) depends on the measure of frequency deviation.

Real-time means are used to measure the frequency error and correct for it in an Automatic Frequency Control (AFC) loop.

A correction signal is generated accordingly, to correctly tune the receiver to the received signal.

Thus, the system will adapt to varying channel characteristics in real time, to achieve improved communications.

This may be useful in DVB-T, for example, where there are a large number of pilot signals available.

This effect, together with means for its correction using a dual loop AFC, are detailed elsewhere in the present disclosure.

A second application relates to a channel sounder. Using means for analyzing the received pilot signals, a signal processor can characterize the communication channel. Using the pilots rather than the information or noise in the channel may achieve a better performance system. The phase and amplitude of the pilots is measured to evaluate the channel distortion at different frequencies. The results are used to apply a correction to the received signal whose subcarriers are located between the pilot signals.

In one embodiment, the average distortion of two adjacent pilots is used to correct the information between these pilots. When the distortion in each pilot is different, the correction may be in error.

A better correction may be achieved using an interpolation process to correct for phase and amplitude of received signals between any two adjacent pilots. This corrects the distortion of the signal frequency spectrum, to improve the receiver performance.

Interpolation may be used to arrive at a channel estimate for each channel frequency, and to correct the signal accordingly. The correction is made in the complex domain, to include gain and phase corrections. Interpolation may be implemented either in the time domain or the frequency domain.

[illegible]

The above system and method may be advantageously used in the physical layer specification proposed as BRAN-HA/PHY, for example. Superior performance may be achieved at lower phase noise.

Further objects, advantages and other features of the present invention will become obvious to those skilled in the art upon reading the disclosure set forth hereinafter.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 illustrates the spectrum of an OFDM signal, with pilots and data.

Fig. 2 illustrates the phase of the pilots versus frequency.

Fig. 3 details the block diagram of a system for implementing ASC and AFC.

Fig. 4A illustrates the phase distortion of pilots in a communication multipath channel, and Fig. 4B illustrates the amplitude distortion of the pilots.

Fig. 5 details a block diagram of a system for correcting the phase and amplitude distortion of signals in a communication channel.

Fig. 6 details a block diagram of a system for correcting the multipath distortion of signals using a LPF.

Fig. 7 illustrates the multipath effect on the pilots in the time domain.

Fig. 8 details a block diagram of a system for correcting the multipath distortion of signals using means for pilots analysis.

Fig. 9 details a block diagram of a decision feedback equalizer system.

Fig. 10 illustrates a dual loop system for implementing Automatic Frequency Control (AFC).

Fig. 11 illustrates a conceptual block diagram of the Downstream Encoding and Modulation subsystem.

008270-29936460

Fig. 1 illustrates the spectrum of an OFDM signal, including pilots and data in the complex frequency domain, with amplitude axis (I) 110, amplitude axis (Q) 111 and frequency axis 12. The spectrum includes the spectrum of data, for example 131, 132, 133 and the pilots 141, 142, 143.

Fig. 2 illustrates a possible distortion in the phase of the pilots versus frequency.

This may be used in a receiver to correct for synchronization errors.

The LO 23 may be implemented, for example, using a voltage controlled oscillator (VCO). The detected signals (I,Q) are processed in a pair of low pass filters (LPF) 24 and are converted to digital words in analog to digital converters (ADC) 25.

The input wideband signal 211 (time domain), after being transformed into digital form, is applied to an FFT processor 3. The FFT processor generates the transformed signal 63 (frequency domain).

Thus, the system will adapt to varying channel characteristics in real time, to achieve improved communications.

Fig. 4A illustrates the phase distortion of pilots in a communication channel. Whereas Fig. 2 illustrated a phase distortion due to a timing delay only, an actual channel may cause a more complex distortion, where the phase differences between pilots does not change in a linear fashion.

This channel effect is illustrated in the frequency domain, with phase axis 15 and frequency axis 12, with pilots 141, 142, 143 each possibly having a different phase.

The other distortion effect is shown in Fig. 4B, that illustrates the amplitude distortion of the pilots, with amplitude axis 11 and frequency axis 12 and pilots 141, 142, 143 of possibly a different amplitude each.

The following method may be used to correct for phase and amplitude distortion in the channel:

- A. measuring the phase of each pilot in a receiver. Measuring the amplitude of each pilot as well.
- B. computing a correction factor for each pilot, to bring all the pilots in phase and to an equal amplitude. The correction factors have a phase shift component and a gain component.
- C. applying the correction factors to the received signals. Between each two adjacent pilots, the correction factor may be the average of the factors for these two pilots. Alternately, separate correction factors may be computed for each frequency using an interpolation method. This may allow to correct each frequency (or each output of the FFT) with its individually computed, corresponding correction factor.
- D. repeating steps A-C all the time, to measure the channel characteristics in real time and to correct in real time for changing channel properties.
- End of method.

This results in the corrected signal 65 (frequency domain) out of unit 72.

The above system and method may be used to implement a channel sounder. Using means for analyzing the received pilot signals, a signal processor can characterize the communication channel.

The phase and amplitude of the pilots is measured to evaluate the channel distortion at different frequencies. The results are used to correct the received signal accordingly. Interpolation may be used to correct for phase and amplitude of received signals between any two adjacent pilots.

This system and method corrects the distortion of the signal frequency spectrum, to improve the receiver performance.

Fig. 6 details a block diagram of a system for correcting the multipath distortion of signals using a Low Pass Filter LPF.

The system includes a receiver 2 for a received signal. The input wideband signal (time domain) from receiver 2 is transferred to an FFT processor 3, that generates a transformed signal in the frequency domain. This signal is transferred to a pilots extraction and analysis unit 71, that extracts the pilots from the received signal. A Low Pass Filter (LPF) 73 is used to measure the multipath, applying a time-domain processing to the pilots spectrum that is presented to the LPF as a time-varying signal. Multipath causes changes in the pilots, that are detected in the LPF.

The resulting multipath information is applied to a channel equalizer 74. The channel equalizer 74 also receives the received signal (in frequency domain) from the FFT processor 3. Unit 74 then corrects the received signal for multipath. The corrected signal 65 (frequency domain) is the output of the system.

The above system may be used to correct for multipath, that may interfere with the reception of wideband signals. It may cause several replicas of a signal to be received, each possibly having a different time delay, amplitude and polarity. These signals may result in interference between adjacent transmitted frames.

008270-2996460

The LPF as detailed is one possible embodiment of means for time filtering in the frequency domain. The LPF is applied to the spectral picture (the pilots representation in the frequency domain), so that each pilot signal can be reconstructed. Multipath signals are added to the main path signal, to actually increase the signal power to improve the signal to noise ratio. Furthermore, the interference because of multipath is reduced.

Fig. 7 illustrates the multipath effect on the pilots in the time domain, with amplitude axis 11 and time axis 16. The signal illustrated is one example of multipath. The pilots are extracted from the signal and combined in the time domain. A pulse train in the frequency domain will result in a pulse in the time domain, this is the pilots pulse 17.

If there is multipath, it will result in a pulse with a specific delay, according to the time delay of the multipath channel in the communication path. Thus, for example, the channel may have a first multipath pulse 171 and second multipath pulse 172, having a time delay 161 and 162, respectively.

Fig. 8 details a block diagram of a system for correcting the multipath distortion of signals using means for pilots analysis.

The system may use the above detailed multipath effect, as detailed with reference to Fig. 7.

An FFT processor 3 computes the spectrum of the received signals, that is transferred to unit 71. The pilots extraction and analysis unit 71 extracts only the pilots in the received signal. The pilots data undergoes an inverse FFT in IFFT unit 75. The output 751 of unit 75 may have the shape illustrated in Fig. 7, that is each multipath path results in a pulse with a characteristic amplitude, time delay and polarity. Output 751 comprises the channel sounder output of the system.

The information regarding each multipath is applied to an equalizer coefficients calculation unit 77.

003210 " 0906760

Unit 77 computes the coefficients to be used in channel equalizer unit 76, responsive to the measured channel information from the channel sounder. The computed coefficients are transferred to unit 76.

The unit 76 operates in the time domain to add or subtract each signal from multipath, to result in a corrected signal 66 (time domain).

Thus, multipath attenuation or cancellation is achieved using the measured characteristics of the channel.

Multipath can be corrected by using an equalizer or transversal filter. For each detected multipath, the filter will generate a correcting signal of the proper time delay, amplitude and polarity.

As multipath is corrected, two benefits may be achieved: a signal with no multipath or reduced multipath may result in improved communications; and, since now the multipath signal is added in phase, it may actually increase the power of the received signal, to improve the signal to noise ratio in the system.

Fig. 9 details a block diagram of a decision feedback equalizer system (DFE).

The system implements a multi-stage equalization and error correction method to be detailed below.

An input (baseband) 960 is connected to a recording unit 961. This allows the same frame to be played several times into the processing system. This allows for a simpler, lower cost implementation. Otherwise, separate units may be used for the various processing stages, and the unit 961 may not be required in that case.

A combiner 962 combines the input signal from unit 961 with feedback signals from a processor, that may be implemented with FIR 975 and combiner 976.

003210-2996760

A FIR 963 filters the input signals, together with a FIR combiner/bypass unit 964.

An equalizer coefficients calculation unit 969 provides the coefficients for the FIR. Alternately, only the middle tap of the FIR is output to the FFT 965. To this effect, unit 969 sets all the FIR coefficients to zero, except the middle tap, that is set to 1 or other nonzero value.

After the FFT in unit 965, the signal is transferred to pilot extraction unit 967. This is followed by IFFT 968 and the equalizer coefficients calculation unit 969, based on the pilots values in the time domain.

A switch 971 allows to transfer the equalized received signal to error detection and correction unit 972 (EDC). The output 973 is the data output of the system, after equalization and error detection and correction.

A transmit signal synthesizer 974 is used to generate a replica of the received signal with the estimated multipath, in combination with FIR 975 and combiner 976.

The resulting signal is applied to combiner 962 to remove multipath to further enhance the received signal.

Equalization and error correction method

The system detailed in Fig. 9 may implement a decision feedback equalizer method comprising the following steps:

- A. record a frame of received data
- B. received data passes through an equalizer (FIR) that is set to bypass mode, that is all the FIR coefficients are set to zero, except the middle tap, that is set to 1 or other nonzero value. This will not filter the signal, however the delay of the FIR is taken into account.
- C. perform an FFT of the received frame
- D. pilots extraction

E. IFFT

F. FIR coefficients calculation and application to the FIR. Subsequent frames may be used to update the coefficients in a pipeline fashion. Thus, in future frames the step (B) will use coefficients computed for the previous frame rather than zero value coefficients.

G. the recorded frame is again applied to the system, however this time the equalizer (FIR) corrects the input data according to the measured coefficients.

H. error detection and correction

I. a replica of the transmitted signal is synthesized, based on the corrected input signal. The synthesized signal contains the measured multipath signals, that are generated in a FIR and combiner.

J. the recorded frame is again applied to the system, however this time the replica of the multipath is subtracted from the input signal.

K. error detection and correction

L. output data.

End of method.

A possible problem in wireless is a frequency error between the transmitted signal and the receiver.

The frequency resulting from the AFC loop is used as a clock for the receiver and subsequently for the transmitter. A frequency error may stem from two possible causes:

A. an undesired difference between the receiver LO (local oscillator) and the transmit LO.

B. a frequency Doppler shift because of the movement of the mobile subscriber.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100
1990	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100

This effect, together with means for its correction using a dual loop AFC, are detailed with reference to Fig. 10.

Fig. 10 illustrates a dual loop system for implementing Automatic Frequency Control (AFC).

The system includes an inner local loop in the subscriber unit, and an outer loop implemented with components both in the subscriber unit and the base station.

The inner loop includes an AFC loop 822 connected to a subscriber receiver 821 for locking the frequency of receiver 821 to the frequency of the signal received from the base station. For example, unit 822 may lock the local oscillator to a pilot signal received from the base station.

Accordingly, unit 822 generates a receiver clock 8221 for the receiver 821. Unit 822 also generates a transmitter clock 8222 that is transferred to the means for generating the transmit frequency. In the example as illustrated, the embodiment of these means is the DDS Tx 826.

The transmit frequency out of unit 826 is used in the Tx subscriber 827, that is the transmitter of the subscriber unit, for transmission to the base station.

This loop solves the problem of tuning the mobile receiver to the base station transmissions. The subscriber frequency may be in error, however, for various reasons. For example, movement of the subscriber unit may result in a Doppler frequency shift of the signal received from the base station. The receiver will lock to the shifted frequency.

The signal received at the base station will have double that frequency shift, because of the relative movement between base and mobile station.

As various subscriber units will transmit with a frequency error, the receiver in the base may have difficulty in effectively separating these receptions.

To solve these frequency errors, a second (outer) loop is added, wherein the base stations measures the frequency deviations of each subscriber and issues instructions to each subscriber to correct its transmit frequency.

003210-2996160

The outer loop is implemented, in the example as illustrated in Fig. 10, as follows: The BS Rx 812 (base station receiver) receives transmissions from mobile subscribers.

Frequency offset unit 813 measures the frequency error in the received signal, that is the difference between the actual received frequency and the precise frequency that was allocated to that subscriber. The results of the measurement are transferred to a frequency correction (Up/Down) unit 814. Unit 814 generates frequency correction messages 815 that are transmitted through the BS Tx 811 (base station transmitter) to the mobile subscriber.

In the mobile unit, these messages are received in receiver 821 and are transferred to the information extraction unit 823. The decoded messages are transferred to the AFC loop closing unit 824, that controls the instruction from base application unit 825.

The reconstructed frequency control signals (frequency correction Up/down instructions) are transferred to the DDS 826.

The DDS 826 includes means for performing a frequency shift according to the instructions received from unit 825.

Thus, the frequency at the output of DDS 826 is derived from the frequency of the received signal, corrected according to instructions from the base stations.

The inner, local frequency control loop sets the frequency according to that of the received signal.

The outer frequency control loop corrects the above frequency setting according to instructions from the base station.

The DDS 826 actually forms the transmitter local oscillator. Its output is transferred to the transmitter 827.

Country	Year	Value
Algeria	1990	1.00
Algeria	1991	1.00
Algeria	1992	1.00
Algeria	1993	1.00
Algeria	1994	1.00
Algeria	1995	1.00
Algeria	1996	1.00
Algeria	1997	1.00
Algeria	1998	1.00
Algeria	1999	1.00
Algeria	2000	1.00
Algeria	2001	1.00
Algeria	2002	1.00
Algeria	2003	1.00
Algeria	2004	1.00
Algeria	2005	1.00
Algeria	2006	1.00
Algeria	2007	1.00
Algeria	2008	1.00
Algeria	2009	1.00
Algeria	2010	1.00
Algeria	2011	1.00
Algeria	2012	1.00
Algeria	2013	1.00
Algeria	2014	1.00
Algeria	2015	1.00
Algeria	2016	1.00
Algeria	2017	1.00
Algeria	2018	1.00
Algeria	2019	1.00
Algeria	2020	1.00
Algeria	2021	1.00
Algeria	2022	1.00
Algeria	2023	1.00
Algeria	2024	1.00
Algeria	2025	1.00
Algeria	2026	1.00
Algeria	2027	1.00
Algeria	2028	1.00
Algeria	2029	1.00
Algeria	2030	1.00
Algeria	2031	1.00
Algeria	2032	1.00
Algeria	2033	1.00
Algeria	2034	1.00
Algeria	2035	1.00
Algeria	2036	1.00
Algeria	2037	1.00
Algeria	2038	1.00
Algeria	2039	1.00
Algeria	2040	1.00
Algeria	2041	1.00
Algeria	2042	1.00
Algeria	2043	1.00
Algeria	2044	1.00
Algeria	2045	1.00
Algeria	2046	1.00
Algeria	2047	1.00
Algeria	2048	1.00
Algeria	2049	1.00
Algeria	2050	1.00
Algeria	2051	1.00
Algeria	2052	1.00
Algeria	2053	1.00
Algeria	2054	1.00
Algeria	2055	1.00
Algeria	2056	1.00
Algeria	2057	1.00
Algeria	2058	1.00
Algeria	2059	1.00
Algeria	2060	1.00
Algeria	2061	1.00
Algeria	2062	1.00
Algeria	2063	1.00
Algeria	2064	1.00
Algeria	2065	1.00
Algeria	2066	1.00
Algeria	2067	1.00
Algeria	2068	1.00
Algeria	2069	1.00
Algeria	2070	1.00
Algeria	2071	1.00
Algeria	2072	1.00
Algeria	2073	1.00
Algeria	2074	1.00
Algeria	2075	1.00
Algeria	2076	1.00
Algeria	2077	1.00
Algeria	2078	1.00
Algeria	2079	1.00
Algeria	2080	1.00
Algeria	2081	1.00
Algeria	2082	1.00
Algeria	2083	1.00
Algeria	2084	1.00
Algeria	2085	1.00
Algeria	2086	1.00
Algeria	2087	1.00
Algeria	2088	1.00
Algeria	2089	1.00
Algeria	2090	1.00
Algeria	2091	1.00
Algeria	2092	1.00
Algeria	2093	1.00
Algeria	2094	1.00
Algeria	2095	1.00
Algeria	2096	1.00
Algeria	2097	1.00
Algeria	2098	1.00
Algeria	2099	1.00
Algeria	2100	1.00
Algeria	2101	1.00
Algeria	2102	

It uses an OFDMA access method for the access method for BRAN-HA /PHY .
Following is a description of this embodiment of invention.

Following is a general description of a physical layer specification proposed as the BRAN- HA/PHY. In order to leverage existing technology and reduce costs this proposal uses many of the ETSI Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) standard for terrestrial broadcasting in the downstream channel (Base Station to Subscriber Unit). In addition, this proposal includes physical elements and implementation aspects that specifically address the challenges to operating reliably in the 20-60GHz band.

The proposed physical layer is based on Frequency Division Duplexing (FDD), which provides a separate frequency assignment for the upstream and downstream channels. We can also use a modification of the OFDM modulation parameters in order to operate the system in Time Division Duplexing (TDD) or in Half Frequency Division Duplexing (H-FDD).

The proposed upstream physical layer is based on the use of a combination of Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) and Orthogonal Frequency Division Access (OFDMA). In particular, the upstream is divided into a number of "time slots" as defined by the MAC layer. Each time slot (sized to duration of one OFDM symbol) is then divided in the frequency domain into groups of sub-carriers referred to as subchannels. The MAC layer controls the assignment of subchannels and time slots (by bandwidth on demand and Data Rate on demand). This initial proposal focuses on the efficient transport of ATM cells and IP packets in the upstream and down stream channels.

4. Downstream Transport Stream and Physical Layer

The downstream physical layer uses aspects of the well-proven DVB-T physical layer. This standard uses the OFDM as its modulation technique. This standard is based on the transmission of packetized digital video corresponding to MPEG-2. In particular a transmission convergence layer can be designed to efficiently transport ATM cells and IP packets (although any frame structure can be used, the MPEG-2 is widely used today). An OFDM symbol will be divided (in the frequency domain) into groups. The first group is a group, which will be dedicated for the broadcast of MPEG-2 transport and can be used in a SFN as the broadcasting area.

The MAC layer for fast feedback or response will use another group, the last group will be allocated for dedicated channels and could carry different information in a SFN configuration. We shall indicate that the broadcasting subcarriers group shall vary as needed, if there is no need for any broadcasting all of its subcarriers group shall be used by the dedicated channels. The encoding and decoding functions for the different group types are summarized in the next block diagram, the functions for the MPEG-2 data stream and for the dedicated channels are adopted from the DVB-T standard. (Figure 1).

Fig. 11 illustrates a conceptual block diagram of the Downstream Encoding and Modulation subsystem. The subsystem may be used for several channels, for example one for broadcasting MPEG-2 850, another for dedicated MPEG-2 851, and one for MAC messages 852. The processing in each channel may include a randomization unit 830, an RS coder (204,188) 831, a convolutional interleaver 832, convolutional encoding and puncturing unit 833, bit interleaver 834 and a symbol mapper 835.

The plurality of channels as illustrated (for example one for broadcasting MPEG-2 850, another for dedicated MPEG-2 851, and one for MAC messages 852) are then processed in the IFFT unit 838. The resulted signal is transmitted over transmission channel 839.

For the MAC messages 852, the processing preferably includes an RS coder (26,20) 836 and a small convolutional interleaver 837.

008210 2566450

The subsystem is devised to output the data in several channels as sent, for example one for broadcasting MPEG-2 853, another for dedicated MPEG-2 854 , and one for MAC messages 855 . Some of the channels may include a small convolutional interleaver 847.

Different modulation schemes QPSK, 16QAM, 64QAM and different puncturing rates $1/2$, $2/3$, $3/4$, $5/6$, $7/8$ enables an optimization of the Downstream bit rate and protection. Moreover at condition of LOS the guard interval needed to mitigate the multipath affects is very small, therefore a use of a small guard interval increases the channel capacity. The Guard intervals supported should then be $1/256$, $1/128$, $1/64$ (see calculation section). For a SFN deployment a larger Guard Interval of $1/32$, $1/16$, $1/8$ can be introduced.

The upstream physical layer is also based upon OFDM modulation, the number of subchannels allocated to a specific user and the timing they will be transmitted in a specified time frame are controlled by the MAC layer. Since the upstream is TDMA/OFDMA based the channel can be modeled as a continuous sequence of "time slots" and each time slot can be modeled as a group of subchannels that are allocated to different Subscriber Units by Bandwidth On Demand. By using this technique, QoS requirements and bandwidth requirements can be managed. The recommended coding and modulation of upstream packets are summarized in the block diagram shown in Fig.13 . As shown in the diagram such a coding scheme is used in order to support a large granularity for the bandwidth on demand requirements.

The resulting signals are transmitted over the transmission channel 869.

The figure illustrates an embodiment of signal processing of signals received over the reception channel 879.

In each channel, the signals are processed in a symbol de-mapper by sub-channel allocation 875.

The resulting signal is transferred to output the data in MPEG-2 streaming 854 per user.

Every subchannel may consist of several carriers (see calculations part), most are used for data transmission and the rest are used for pilots transmission.

The next section deals with different aspects of the physical layer implementation.

In order to avoid highly accurate frequency source (e.g., OCXO) at the Subscriber Unit and satisfy timing requirements for telephony or other CBR applications (T1/E1), it is highly efficient to derive the Subscriber Unit's clocks from the Downstream transmission. This can be achieved by using the Pilots carriers transmitted by the Base Station, these Pilots can also be used in order to Synchronize onto the Downstream transmission and achieve clock extraction. Accurate upstream time slot synchronization shall be supported through a ranging calibration procedure defined by the MAC layer using the pilots transmitted by each Subscriber Unit.

Moreover, the Base Station copes with users transmission not arriving fully synchronized, and relieving the demand for users synchronization.

The clock extracted from the Downstream (as explained before) is used as the reference clock of the Subscriber unit, in particular to produce the RF frequency for the transmission and to adopt this clock as the Subscriber Unit Base Band clock. Locking on the Downstream transmission frequency shall allow an accurate Upstream RF transmission frequency to be produced, that ensures that all Subscriber Units transmitting shall reach the Base Station Orthogonal, keeping the OFDM properties.

In order to perform a Upstream power control the Base Station shall use a calibration and a periodic adjustment procedures. The adjustment values shall be sent to a Specific Subscriber Unit via the MAC layer. The Base station shall extract the adjustment values by monitoring the power on the carriers that were allocated to the specified user on the specified OFDM symbol. Controlling the power of the Downstream dedicated channels will perform another power control mechanism. The specified Subscriber Unit MAC shall send adjustment values to the base station correcting the power transmitted on the dedicated channel, and adjusting it to the demands of a certain SNR. This procedure will enable an optimized use of the base station Power Amplifier.

For the Upstream where a reduced number of carriers are used (taking into consideration that all useful carriers are divided into 16 subchannels), the crest factor achieved is about 7-7.5dB for QPSK, 16QAM and 64 QAM all modulations (with peaks of 9.5dB).

Fig. 17 illustrates BER/SNR for different Crest Factor achieved by clipping for an Upstream 16QAM OFDM Symbol

The spectrum properties of an OFDM modulation are

Comparing OFDM to a Single Carrier where using a roll-off factor of 0.25-0.35, it can be seen that OFDM modulation achieves much more efficient spectrum properties with no degradation in the performance, whereas in the Single Carrier there is a degradation of 0.5-1.5dB .

For an OFDM transmission, where the user is allocated a subchannel, the total power transmitted is divided between less carriers, to achieve an additional power gain of 12 dB (for a case were the symbol is divided for 16 users).

In our System, it is expected to be in the 0.15-0.2 Tm/T (see calculation). Fig. 19 illustrates the influence of linear Group-Delay in Single Carrier system.

Upstream bursts of Subscriber User are very efficient because of a low overhead. Subscriber Unit that has been allocated to one subchannel has only 14% (16 of 112 carriers) of the carriers dedicated to pilots (these are used for all receiver demands for time, power and frequency control, and are also used for channel estimation). If user is allocated more subchannels there is no need for further increase of pilots number, so for 2 subchannel efficiency shall rise and the overhead decreases to 7% (16 of 224 carriers), if all band is given to the user the overhead shall be less than 1% .

Sectorization, Cross Polarization and Diversity can be used in an OFDMA system as well, and may give many advantages.

The following table is a rough comparison between OFDMA and a Single Carrier System using TDD, numbers were derived from experience, simulations and articles.

Criteria	OFDMA	S.C. TDMA
Preamble	To mitigate the affects of multipath in our system a short Guard Interval is introduced. Maximum of 32 samples of GI and 2048 of Symbol – 1.5% .	30-50% of the capacity
Crest Factor	Using hard clipping has described in 5.4: QPSK 2k carriers – 6.5 dB QPSK 128 carriers – 5.5 dB 16QAM 2k carriers – 7.5 dB 16QAM 128 carriers – 6.5 dB 64QAM 2k carriers – 8.5 dB 64QAM 128 carriers – 7.5 dB	With Roll Off Factor of 0.25 : QPSK – 6dB 16QAM – 7.4dB 64QAM – 8.8dB
Sensitivity to Group Delay	Solved by channel estimator as other channel impairments	There is a need of a DFE equalizer, a lose of 1db is introduced
Spectrum shape	Brick wall	Depends on Roll-Off Factor
Sampling in time	Not sensitive and solved by channel estimator as other channel impairments	Very sensitive to sampling point and needs high clock rate for a 1/16 timing accuracy
Maximum Range	4 times X, due to efficient power amplifier usage. 12dB better the S.C, when power is used on only 1/16 the carrier amount.	X
Capacity	64QAM must of the time	QPSK, 16QAM
Rain Fade and Fluctuation	Degrading to QPSK.	None.
Price	Cheaper due to simpler P.A. at CPE	Expensive CPE
Statistical multiplexing and Overhead	10 time higher capabilities in multiplexing due to higher capacity and low Overhead which need not to be increased on more Data rate or Bandwidth supplied.	Poor multiplexing and very big overhead.
Reuse Factor	Can statistically go down near to one by reducing frequency usage of the carriers	Can use adaptive slots allocation out of sub group slots but has propagation time design, reducing capacity considerably
Peak EIRP	Lower peak power due to Subchannel allocation	High peak power, 12 dB higher

Total throughput (64QAM) before ECC = 159.26 Mbps

8.2 Uplink

Number of Carriers used for Uplink contention = 64

Number of Subchannels per OFDM frame = 16 Subchannels

Number of carriers per on Sub channel allocation = 108 carriers

Pilot Carriers per Subscriber Unit = 16 carriers

Data carriers assuming n Subchannel for a specified Subscriber Unit (n ranging from 1 to 16) = $108 \times n - 16$

Data carriers assuming 1 Subchannel for a specified
Subscriber Unit = $108 - 16 = 92$ carriers

Data carriers assuming 16 Subchannel for a specified
Subscriber Unit = $1792 - 64 - 16 = 1712$ carriers

Symbol rate assuming best subchannel allocation (all Subchannels per Subscriber unit) = $(1792 - 64 - 16)$ carriers / Frame Duration = 26.543MSPs

Symbol rate assuming worst subchannel allocation (one per Subscriber unit) =
 $(1792 - 64 - 16 \cdot 16) \text{ carriers} / \text{Frame Duration} = 22.822 \text{ Msps}$

Symbol rate per subchannel (Worst allocation) = 1.4264Msps

Total throuput (QPSK) before ECC , worst allocation = 45.643 Mbps

Total throuput (16QAM) before ECC , worst allocation = 91.287 Mbps

Total throuput (64QAM) before ECC , worst allocation = 136.93 Mbps

TDMA frame length = 16 OFDM symbols

TDMA frame duration = $16 * 64.5\mu\text{sec} = 1.032\text{msec}$

[illegible]

These conclusions are different from some results presented in prior art. However, the results from the simulation are consistent to those achieved in prior art as summarized in CHAYAT, May 1998.

Various modifications of the preferred embodiment are possible without departing from the scope of the present invention, and many of these would be obvious to people skilled in the art.

Although the invention has been described in connection with a preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that this description is not intended to limit the invention thereto. Rather, the invention is intended to cover all modifications and/or additions to the abovementioned description, without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.